

National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC)

NIAC Chemical, Biological and Radiological Events and the Critical Infrastructure Workforce

**Status Report
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Overview

- ▣ Objective/Scope
- ▣ Assumptions
- ▣ Key Questions
- ▣ Critical Sectors Represented
- ▣ Findings
- ▣ Transition to Pandemic Working Group
- ▣ Discussion

Objective and Scope

❑ Objective:

- Provide recommendations for keeping those who work in and maintain areas considered Critical Infrastructure (CI) prepared for a biological event and ensure they have the tools, training, and equipment they need to identify, respond to, and recover from a biological emergency

❑ Scope of the activity:

- Identify CI operating personnel and biological emergency requirements
- Identify how needs are currently handled; Identify vulnerabilities in preparedness and response capabilities
- Identify gaps and solutions

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Assumptions

❑ Scope:

- Will focus on biological preparedness, training, awareness, response processes, response tools and technologies, response coordination, etc.
- Will focus on post-incident continuity and recovery capabilities
- Will *not* focus on specific threats or threat vectors
- Will focus on high-risk critical infrastructure, key inter-dependencies, and public-private sector linkages
- Will address both strategic and appropriate tactical issues
 - ❑ Example: strategic awareness issue across an entire critical infrastructure sector vs. lack of tactical communications capability between local and state first responders

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Key Questions

Focus on common set of data points to collect across critical sectors; contributes to trending/consistency

- ❑ Do CEOs and their organizations have employee awareness, preparedness and response training programs?
- ❑ Is there a market incentive to invest in biological preparedness and response programs?
- ❑ Is there sufficient communication infrastructure in place to respond to a biological event?
- ❑ What tools and technologies currently support your biological response capability?

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Key Questions (cont.)

- ❑ What tools and technologies are currently insufficient and why do they not meet your requirements?
- ❑ Is there sufficient coordination between federal, state, local and private-sector entities?
- ❑ What can the federal government do to encourage or facilitate enhanced preparedness and response capabilities?
- ❑ What are key inter-dependencies in a biological event?
- ❑ What are the three or four critical vulnerabilities facing your organization today?

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Critical Sectors Represented

❑ Critical sectors and leads include:

- Fire/EMS
- Food and Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Water
- Finance
- Communications
- State and Local
- Electricity
- Information Technology
- Commercial Facilities
- Transportation

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Findings

Findings that identified positive efforts or trends included:

❑ Finding #1: Awareness

- Tremendous degree of awareness across all elements of the critical infrastructure, federal, state and local governments

❑ Finding #2: Organizational leadership

- Multiple organizations dedicated leadership to biological event preparedness
- Organization-wide preparedness activities being driven from highest levels

❑ Finding #3: Preparedness

- Coordinated biological event response plans and exercises are becoming more commonplace.

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Findings (cont.)

Findings that suggested preparedness and response risk included:

- ▣ Finding #1: Sustained Response
 - Sustained response (greater than 72 hours) efforts highly dependent upon uninterrupted provisioning of electric and water utilities and functioning logistics infrastructure
- ▣ Finding #2: Health and Welfare
 - Ability to deliver services correlates directly to health and welfare of responders and providers
 - Health and welfare of family members of particular concern
- ▣ Finding #3: Communications
 - Opportunities exist to improve communications capabilities and processes between responders and inter-dependent entities (i.e. law enforcement, transportation, emergency response, utilities, etc.)

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Findings (cont.)

- ▣ Finding #4: Response Coordination
 - Federal, state, local and private sector response efforts require greater, and more detailed levels of coordination and planning
- ▣ Finding #5: Logistics
 - Logistical support for biological events remains a concern
 - Specific questions around vaccinations, resource delivery, and prioritization of services requires greater study and definition
 - Concerns exist around logistical surge capacity

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